

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 35, 39, 48, and 49 to read as follows. A marked up version of the claims is attached hereto.

C3 35. (Twice Amended) A substrate comprising a super-absorbent material applied to the substrate, wherein the super-absorbent material is obtained by allowing suitable monomers to polymerize in the presence of a catalyst in order to obtain a pre-cross-linked polymer solution, adding a cross-linking agent containing two functional groups which are capable after thermal excitation of reacting within at least ten minutes with carboxylate or carbonic acid functional groups to the polymer solution to obtain a pasty composition, subsequently applying the composition on or in the substrate and allowing the applied composition to dry for one to three minutes at between 150°C and 200°C to form a swellable paste, and wherein the pasty composition is applied to the substrate in the form of discrete, substantially semi-spherical islets having a diameter of 10 μ to 1000 μ .

C4 39. (Twice Amended) The substrate as claimed in claim 35, wherein the pasty composition applied to the substrate is allowed to dry and cross-link.

C5 48. (Once Amended) The substrate as claimed in claim 35, wherein the super-absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a cross-linked polyacrylate, a polyamide, or a combination thereof.

49. (Once Amended) The substrate as claimed in claim 35, wherein the substrate is one of a fabric, a non-woven, a paper, a film, aluminum tape, or a fiber.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY